



Sandy Point State Park is hosting a herd of goats to improve forest health. The 2.85 acre wooded area (shown above in blue) is currently overrun with a high concentration of invasive shrubs and vines that are killing mature trees and blocking light to the understory plants. Invasive vines that are weakening and killing the trees include English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and Oriental bittersweet. Also degrading the habitat are invasive multiflora rose and privet bushes. The area will be cleared of invasive plants and enhanced with young native trees to restore the forest tree canopy.

May 2016, the Eco-Goats herd will be clearing the area by eating the tender spring shoots of the invasive species. This will give the mature trees a chance to thrive during the summer months and open up areas for planting new trees such as American holly, flowering dogwood and various oaks this fall.

For more information about this project contact Sarah Hilderbrand with the Chesapeake & Coastal Service, MD Department of Natural Resources Sarah.Hilderbrand@maryland.gov or visit Eco-Goats website <http://www.eco-goats.com/>.

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